

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 47 – 59 and 67 – 79 were pending in the application, and were subjected to an election of species requirement. By this response, an election is made without traverse, and claims 47 – 49, claims 67 – 69, and new claims 87 – 93 are presented for first examination on the merits.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added to this application through the above amendments.

Election Requirement Summary

The Examiner has deemed that the present application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species. The Examiner has required election of a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

The species were identified by the Examiner as follows:

Species 1: Figs. 2 – 5, asserted to correspond to claims 47 – 49 and 67 – 69;

Species 2: Figs. 18 – 21, asserted to correspond to claims 50 – 53 and 70 – 73;

Species 3: Figs. 6 – 9, asserted to correspond to claims 54 and 55;

Species 4: Figs. 22 – 25, asserted to correspond to claims 56 – 58 and 76 – 78;

Species 5: Figs. 10 – 13, asserted to correspond to claim 59;

Species 6: Figs. 14 – 17, asserted to correspond to claims 74 and 75; and

Species 7: Figs. 26 – 29, asserted to correspond to claim 79.

Response

Applicants elect, without traverse, to continue prosecution of Species 1.

Applicants concur that claims 47 – 49 and 67 – 69 read on Species 1.

Applicants further submit that new claims 87 – 93 read on the elected species, as claims 47 – 49, 67 – 69, and 87 – 93 all recite a content processing apparatus that:

1. stores an identifier unique to the content processing apparatus and identification data;
2. encrypts content and the identification data using the identifier; and
3. stores the encrypted content and the encrypted identification data in content storage medium.

Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that upon the allowance of any claim now or later deemed to be generic to additional species, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of such additional species which include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to conduct a first substantive examination of claims 47 – 49, 67 – 69, and 87 – 93.

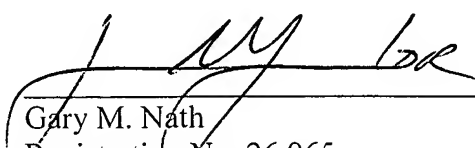
As seven independent claims and twenty total claims are cancelled by the above amendment, and as two new independent claims and seven total claims are presented thereby, Applicants submit that no excess claims fees are required.

The Examiner is welcomed to contact the undersigned at the below-listed number and address with any questions or comments regarding this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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